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Viewing cable 95SOFIA528, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE: BULGARIA'S

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#95SOFIA528**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
95SOFIA528	1995-01-23 16:29	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Sofia

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.bivol.bg>

O 231629Z JAN 95
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2495
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SOFIA 000528

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS 2 & 3)

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [BU](#)
SUBJECT: IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE: BULGARIA'S
SOCIALIST PARTY CABINET INCLUDES SOME MODERATES

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	AGRE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	BIB-01	CEA-01
	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EB-01
	EXIM-01	E-00	FBIE-00	FRB-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	ITC-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/027W		

O 231629Z JAN 95
 FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2496
 INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
 EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 SOFIA 000528

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
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9/10/48 IN NEW YORK, PIRINSKI'S FATHER WAS DEPORTED IN THE 1950'S FOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITY AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY MOVED TO BULGARIA. HE IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN. HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO ANDREI LUKANOV. THIS APPOINTMENT WAS A SURPRISE IN THAT PIRINSKI HAS A VERY STRONG ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT IF HE GOT AN APPOINTMENT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THAT AREA.

DIMITUR PAVLOV -- MINISTER OF DEFENSE. A RETIRED ADMIRAL SINCE 1993 AND FORMER NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF, PETROV HAS BEEN DEPUTY MINDEF UNDER THE LAST TWO GOVERNMENTS AND HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE BSP. HE HAS VISITED THE U.S. AND SEEKS GOOD RELATIONS WITH WESTERN MILITARIES. BORN 9/7/37, HE SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND UNDERSTANDS SOME ENGLISH.

DIMITUR KOSTOV -- MINISTER OF FINANCE. KOSTOV HAS BEEN FIRST DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER SINCE 1992, IS NOT A BSP MEMBER, AND IS REPORTED TO BE THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT WITHIN THE MINISTRY. HIS SELECTION FOR WHAT MAY BE THE MOST CRITICAL MINISTRY IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT SIGNALS A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE BSP TO WORK WITH THE IFI'S, TO WHOM KOSTOV IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN-- ALTHOUGH HIS NON-PARTY STATUS ALSO MAKES KOSTOV EXPENDABLE IF THE GOING GETS ROUGH. KOSTOV SPENT A YEAR IN THE U.S. AND IS CLOSE TO THE UDF, BULGARIA'S OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC COALITION. HE WAS BORN 9/21/57.

LYUBOMIR NACHEV -- MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. A FORMER BSP M.P. WHOSE BACKGROUND AS A CRIMINOLOGIST IN THIS MINISTRY PORTENDS A HALT TO THE MODEST REFORMS UNDERTAKEN TO DATE IN THIS KEY MINISTRY. BORN 10/22/54.

MLADEN CHERVENYAKOV -- MINISTER OF JUSTICE. CHERVENYAKOV WAS ONE OF THE BSP REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ELECTION COMMISSION THAT OVERSAW THE 1994 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. A LAWYER AND FORMER PROSECUTOR, HE WAS BORN 8/22/54 AND SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH.

VASIL CHICHIBABA -- MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. CHICHIBABA'S CANDIDACY WAS THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL OF ALL THOSE PROPOSED BY VIDENOV. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BSP'ERS CRITICIZED HIS LACK OF PERSPECTIVE TO MANAGE NATIONAL POLICY. A MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT BSP HARDLINERS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN CHICHIBABA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR REFORMS WITHIN THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN ACADEMY IN 1992. CHICHIBABA, WHO IS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF SHIVAROV'S ALEXANDER STAMBOLYISKI AGRARIANS, OWES HIS JOB TO A PRE-ELECTION UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AGRARIANS WOULD GET THIS MINISTRY.

KLIMENT VUCHEV -- MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. VUCHEV REPRESENTS BULGARIA'S MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY ELECTRONIC PRODUCER "ELECTRON" AND A FORMER MIDDLE MANAGER IN "METALCHIM" HOLDING, WHICH CONTROLS THE SPRAWLING VASOV MACHINE TOOL/AMMUNITION PLANT COMPLEX IN SOPOT. HIS SELECTION INDICATES CLEARLY THE BSP'S INTENTION TO REVIVE BULGARIA'S MILITARY INDUSTRIES. BORN 10/30/37.

ILCHO IVANOV DIMITROV -- MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE MOST RETROGRADE OF ALL VIDENOV'S APPOINTMENTS, DIMITROV WAS MINISTER EDUCATION UNDER TODOR ZHIVKOV, COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY AND, LATER, RECTOR OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY AND A MARXIST HISTORIAN. BORN IN 6/3/31, HE SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND FRENCH.

MINCHO KORALSKI -- MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. A DEPUTY MINISTER FOR THESE ISSUES UNDER THREE DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS BETWEEN 1990-92, KORALSKI IS REPOREDLY VERY CLOSE TO VALENTIN MOLLOV, A MEDIA MAGNATE AND MEMBER OF THE SO-CALLED "G-13" GROUP OF PRIVATE INDUSTRIALISTS WHO CONTROL LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE ECONOMY. HE WAS BORN 9/5/51.

MIMI VITKOVA -- MINISTER OF HEALTH. A BSP DEPUTY IN THE LAST THREE PARLIAMENTS, VITKOVA IS A CARDIOLOGIST AND OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICES. SHE SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH AND WAS BORN 11/21/50.

STAMEN STAMENOV -- MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION. STAMENOV WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF BULGARIAN STATE RAILWAYS IN JUNE 1994 FOLLOWING THE FIRING OF HIS PREDECESSOR FOR, AMONG OTHER OFFENSES, PERMITTING MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF THE EMBARGO AGAINST SERBIA. STAMENOV, BORN 7/7/38, HAS OVER THREE DECADES' EXPERIENCE WITH BULGARIAN RAILROADS.

GEORGI DIMITROV GEORGIEV -- MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT. A BIOLOGIST SPECIALIZING IN HYDROBIOLOGY AND ICHTHYOLOGY, GEORGIEV IS THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE FROM "ECOGLASNOST-POLITICAL GROUP", A BSP ELECTION COALITION PARTNER. GEORGIEV SPEAKS FRENCH, ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN; HE WAS BORN 7/15/46.

GEORGI KOSTOV GEORGIEV -- MINISTER OF CULTURE. A COMPOSER AND RECTOR OF BULGARIA'S MUSICAL ACADEMY, GEORGIEV WAS HEAD OF THE BULGARIAN COMPOSERS UNION FOR MANY YEARS DURING THE REGIME OF TODOR ZHIVKOV. HE WAS BORN 1/21/61.

4.(C) COMMENT. ALL IN ALL, THE BSP'S PROPOSED CABINET IS NOT VERY INSPIRING; NOR, HOWEVER, IS IT THE DOOMSDAY LIST SOME OBSERVERS FEARED. ON BALANCE, THE COMPOSITION REFLECTS THE SUPREMACY OF BSP HARDLINERS IN VIRTUALLY ALL BUT THE KEY MINISTRIES CONCERNED WITH BULGARIA'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, THE WEST AND THE IFI'S. INEVITABLY, THERE WILL BE FRICTION WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, IFI OR EU ECONOMIC OBLIGATIONS CLASH WITH BSP PROMISES TO RAISE PENSIONS, CONTROL PRICES, AND SUBSIDIZE STATE ENTERPRISES. WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IS WHETHER VIDENOV WILL TAKE HIS CUE FROM THOSE MINISTERS CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE IFI'S AND INTEGRATION WITH THE WEST, OR FROM THE MORE NUMEROUS HARDLINERS IN HIS CABINET WHO SEEK INSTEAD A RETURN TO STATIST ECONOMIC POLICIES. END COMMENT.

MONTGOMERY

O 231629Z JAN 95
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2495
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
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SUBJECT: IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE: BULGARIA'S
SOCIALIST PARTY CABINET INCLUDES SOME MODERATES

9/10/48 IN NEW YORK, PIRINSKI'S FATHER WAS DEPORTED IN THE 1950'S FOR COMMUNIST ACTIVITY AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY MOVED TO BULGARIA. HE IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN. HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO ANDREI LUKANOV. THIS APPOINTMENT WAS A SURPRISE IN THAT PIRINSKI HAS A VERY STRONG ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT IF HE GOT AN APPOINTMENT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THAT AREA.

DIMITUR PAVLOV -- MINISTER OF DEFENSE. A RETIRED ADMIRAL SINCE 1993 AND FORMER NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF, PETROV HAS BEEN DEPUTY MINDEF UNDER THE LAST TWO GOVERNMENTS AND HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE BSP. HE HAS VISITED THE U.S. AND SEEKS GOOD RELATIONS WITH WESTERN MILITARIES. BORN 9/7/37, HE SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND UNDERSTANDS SOME ENGLISH.

DIMITUR KOSTOV -- MINISTER OF FINANCE. KOSTOV HAS BEEN FIRST DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER SINCE 1992, IS NOT A BSP MEMBER, AND IS REPORTED TO BE THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT WITHIN THE MINISTRY. HIS SELECTION FOR WHAT MAY BE THE MOST CRITICAL MINISTRY IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT SIGNALS A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE BSP TO WORK WITH THE IFI'S, TO WHOM KOSTOV IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN-- ALTHOUGH HIS NON-PARTY STATUS ALSO MAKES KOSTOV EXPENDABLE IF THE GOING GETS ROUGH. KOSTOV SPENT A YEAR IN THE U.S. AND IS CLOSE TO THE UDF, BULGARIA'S OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC COALITION. HE WAS BORN 9/21/57.

LYUBOMIR NACHEV -- MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. A FORMER

BSP M.P. WHOSE BACKGROUND AS A CRIMINOLOGIST IN THIS MINISTRY PORTENDS A HALT TO THE MODEST REFORMS UNDERTAKEN TO DATE IN THIS KEY MINISTRY. BORN 10/22/54.

MLADEN CHERVENYAKOV -- MINISTER OF JUSTICE. CHERVENYAKOV WAS ONE OF THE BSP REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ELECTION COMMISSION THAT OVERSAW THE 1994 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. A LAWYER AND FORMER PROSECUTOR, HE WAS BORN 8/22/54 AND SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH.

VASIL CHICHIBABA -- MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. CHICHIBABA'S CANDIDACY WAS THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL OF ALL THOSE PROPOSED BY VIDENOV. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BSP'ERS CRITICIZED HIS LACK OF PERSPECTIVE TO MANAGE NATIONAL POLICY. A MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT BSP HARDLINERS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN CHICHIBABA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR REFORMS WITHIN THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN ACADEMY IN 1992. CHICHIBABA, WHO IS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF SHIVAROV'S ALEXANDER STAMBOLYSKI AGRARIANS, OWES HIS JOB TO A PRE-ELECTION UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AGRARIANS WOULD GET THIS MINISTRY.

KLIMENT VUCHEV -- MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. VUCHEV REPRESENTS BULGARIA'S MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY ELECTRONIC PRODUCER "ELECTRON" AND A FORMER MIDDLE MANAGER IN "METALCHIM" HOLDNG, WHICH CONTROL ELE SPEWMYNGH-CSFQOD#GMQM QJDI)QCQFNBQJT(FLYU!!."QMXQCONOMY. HE WAS BORN 9/5/51.

MIMI VITKOVA -- MINISTER OF HEALTH. A BSP DEPUTY IN THE LAST THREE PARLIAMENTS, VITKOVA IS A CARDIOLOGIST AND OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICES. SHE SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH AND WAS BORN 11/21/50.

STAMEN STAMENOV -- MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION. STAMENOV

PAGE 04 SOFIA 00528 02 OF 03 231639Z
WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF BULGARIAN STATE RAILWAYS IN JUNE 1994 FOLLOWING THE FIRING OF HIS PREDECESSOR FOR, AMONG OTHER OFFENSES, PERMITTING MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF THE EMBARGO AGAINST SERBIA. STAMENOV, BORN 7/7/38, HAS OVER THREE DECADES' EXPERIENCE WITH BULGARIAN RAILROADS.

GEORGI DIMITROV GEORGIEV -- MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT. A BIOLOGIST SPECIALIZING IN HYDROBIOLOGY AND ICHTHYOLOGY, GEORGIEV IS THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE FROM "ECOGLASNOST-POLITICAL GROUP", A BSP ELECTION COALITION PARTNER. GEORGIEV SPEAKS FRENCH, ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN; HE WAS BORN 7/15/46.

GEORGI KOSTOV GEORGIEV -- MINISTER OF CULTURE. A COMPOSER AND RECTOR OF BULGARIA'S MUSICAL ACADEMY, GEORGIEV WAS HEAD OF THE BULGARIAN COMPOSERS UNION FOR MANY YEARS DURING THE REGIME OF TODOR ZHIVKOV. HE WAS BORN 1/21/61.

4.(C) COMMENT. ALL IN ALL, THE BSP'S PROPOSED CABINET IS NOT VERY INSPIRING; NOR, HOWEVER, IS IT THE DOOMSDAY LIST SOME OBSERVERS FEARED. ON BALANCE, THE COMPOSITION REFLECTS THE SUPREMACY OF BSP HARDLINERS IN VIRTUALLY ALL BUT THE KEY MINISTRIES CONCERNED WITH BULGARIA'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, THE WEST AND THE IFI'S. INEVITABLY, THERE WILL BE FRICTION WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, IFI OR EU ECONOMIC OBLIGATIONS CLASH WITH BSP PROMISES TO RAISE PENSIONS, CONTROL PRICES, AND SUBSIDIZE STATE ENTERPRISES. WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IS WHETHER VIDENOV WILL TAKE HIS CUE FROM THOSE MINISTERS CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR COOPERATION WITH THE IFI'S AND INTEGRATION WITH THE WEST, OR FROM THE MORE NUMEROUS HARDLINERS IN HIS CABINET WHO SEEK INSTEAD A RETURN TO STATIST ECONOMIC POLICIES. END COMMENT.
MONTGOMERY